Where Williamson County Got The Name Of Bloody Williamson.

6-22-I922	Herrin Massacree
9- - 2I	Southern Illinois Coal Co. Opened Strip Mine in Williamson County
I- 2I	County Shipped First Coal.
4- I- 22	U.M.W.A. Miners go on Strike for minimum Wage but gave Coal Co Permission to strip Coal.
6-I3- 22	Company dismisses its Union Miners.
6-I5 22	Fifty strikebreakers and Guards were Imported in from Chicago to take over the sprip mine.
6-I6 22	Mine Shipped Sixteen Cars of Coal in Defiance of Strike.
6-I8 22	Colonel Sam Hunter and Major Davis arrived in Marion to Confer With George Z. Lester Superintendent of S.I. Coal Co. and States Attorney andSheriff Thaxon.
6-20 22	John L. Lewis U.M.W.A. President wired Instructions that all Shovel operators are viewed as Strikebreakers
6-2I 22	The Striking Miners surounded the Mine, In the ensueing Gun Fire Two Strikers were Killed. Hunter the strikebreakers Big Boss tries to effect a truce. to no avail.
6-22- 22	The Strikebreakers Surrendered after Nineteen were Killed.
6-25 22	A Coronors Jury Attributed the deaths to the Mine Company.
8-I6 22	The Illinois Chamber of Commerce appeals for funds for Prsecution of the 6-22-22 Murders.
8-22 22	A Special Grand Jurry was called to Investigate The Murders. They Returned the first Inditement Charged Odis Clark A Farmer with Murder
9-8 22	The U.M.W.A. Illinois Convention held at Peoria, Ill. Pledged I% of earnings to defend the Herrin Miners.
9-23 22	The Grand Jury recessed after having brought in (2I4) inditements includeing (44) Murders.
I0-23- 22	The Grand Jury returned (48) additional Inditements.
II-8- 22	(5) Men go to Trial for Murder.
I - I8-23	II:I5 A.M. Case Goes to Jury.
I - I9-23	All (5) Miners were Aquitted.
2-I2 23	(6) Men includeing (2) defendents of first trial go on trial for the Murder of Antonio Molkovich also killed in Herrin. Seven Hours later all were aquitted.

6-30-1868

7 - 4-I868	Members of the Bulliner family and Felix Henderson had a Brawl.
I -I0-I869	David Bulliner and George Sisney had a lawsuit over a crop of Oats whitch was decided in favor of Sisney.
4-26-I869	(4) Bulliners attack George Sisney, He was wounded.
I2-25-I872	Members of the Crain andSisney Family had a brawl at the general Store at Carterville.
I2-30-I872	The Crains, Bulliners, Sisneys and Hendersons had a trial arising from the Brawl of I2-25-I872.
I2-I2-I873	Old George Bulliner was murdered, Crime never solved.
3-27-I874	David Bulliner Son of George was shot From Ambush,
5-I5-I874	James Henderson Was shot from ambush.
8- 9-I874	Attempt to murder George Sisney failed.
I0-4-I874	Dr, Vincent Hinchcliff was murdered.
I2-I2-I874	George Sisney was shot but recovers.
7-28-I875	George Sisney was murdered at home in Carbondale,
7-3I-I875	William Spence Crainville Storekeeper was Killed.
8- 9-I875	Govenor Beveridge, Williamson and Jackson Counties offered $I,800. Rewards for the killers of Bulliner, Spence and George Sisney.
9- 9-I875	B.F.Lowe Arrested Samuel Music at Cairo, Ill. and brought him to Marion, on the baises Of Music members of the Crain Family and John Bullinger were arrested and charged with the Murder of George Sisney and William Spence.

Bloody Williamson Co.

9 -26-I875 B.F.Lowe Arrested Marshal Crain in Arkansas

I0- I3-I875 John Bulliner and Allen Baker were tried at Murphysboro, For the Killing of George Sisney, Were sentenced to (25) Years in Pen.

-20-I875 Marshal Crain Pleads guilty to killing William Spence and was Hanged in the Marion Jailyard.

I890 Sam T. Brush organized the Big Muddy Coal Co. and sinks a shaft near Carterville, Ill.

4 -I0-I894 Miners called a strike for a minimum wage.

6 -I6-I894 Miners return to work.

I2-28-i897 Big Muddy Coal Co. Topped the State for production.

3 -20-I898 The U.M.W.A. organized a Local without Mr,Brushs Knowledge and ask for scale set by the Illinois Operators. Brush fired all his Miners.

5 -20-I898 Mr, Brush imports Train loads of Negro Miners and Familys.

5 -30-I898 The Union Miners Surround the mine to try to dissuade the men from working but failed.

6 -30-I899 A contingent of Miners and Families who Mr, Brush brought from Pana, are attacked at Lauder(Cambria) (I) was Killed (20) Wounded.

7 2 -I899 Two Companies of the Malitia arrived at Carterville to reste order

9 -II-I899 Troops are sent Home.

9 -I2-I899 Mr, Brush in Murphysboro was beaten by unidentified Assailant and (5) of his Negro Miners were killed at Carterville, and Malitia was called again.

I2- 4-I899 A trial was held atVienna for rioters,

I - 7-I900 Trial Ended not guilty.

I -23-I900 A trial for rioters at Carterville Was held at Vienna.

3 - 4-I900 Trial ends not guilty.

-II-I906 The Madison Coal Co. takes over The Big Muddy Coal Co. and operated it under United Mine Workers of America.

I90I Levi Zeigler Leitner and Son Joseph bought Mine and an extensive amount of land in Franklin County. Called it the Zeigler Coal Co.

6 - I-I904 The Zeigler Coal Co. Hoisted first Coal.

6 - 9-I904 Levi Zeigler Leitner dies, Leaving Mines to son Joseph.

7 - 7-I904 Joseph reduces Labor by extensive use of Machinery.

7 - 8-I904 Leitners Miners go out on strike, Leitner imports guards and fortifies hisProperty.

7 -27-I904 Leitner ships in Non Union workers.

I0-25-I904 (2) of Leitners officials were fired on from ambush. Malitia was called to Zeigler.

4 - 3-I905 (54) of Leitners men loose their lives from explosions in Mine.

II- 4-I908 Fire broke out in Mine State Mine inspectors ordered it closed for ninety days.

I -I0-I909 Mine officials sent cleanup crews down, Explosions killed (26) Inspectors ordered Mine closed again.

2 -I -I909 Mine Officials disreguard inspectors, send men underground another explosion kills (3) men

2 -9 -I909 Leitner closes the mine for good.

5 -20-23 KuKluxKlan Made first appearance in Marion, Ill.

5 -26-23 Klan initiate over (200) candidates in Marion.

6 -24-23 Klan Visits Methodist Church make contributions to Minister and initiate more cadidates makeing them about (2500) strong.

-26- A large meeting was held in Carterville,Ill.

II-I -23 S.Glen Young was hired by klan to take charge of Law Enforcement in Williamson County.

I2-22-23 Klans first raid on bootleggers.

I -5 -23 Large raid strikes again.

I -8 -24 Glen Young Flashes Guns in court. Malitia called in.

I -20-24 Big raid on bootleggers.
2 -I -24 Largest raid ever made, Special train needed to haul those arrested to Benton.
2 -8 -24 Casear Cagle was killed in Herrin, Klan Shot up Herrin Hospital, Malitia was called again.
2 -I2-24 Glen Young yields to County officers
3 -3-24 Trial starts for bootleggers in U.S. Court in Danville,Ill.
3 -I4-24 Grand Jury Indite (99) for Killing Ceaser Cagle and attack on Herrin Hospital.
3 -I7-24 A huge parade was against inditements and Bonds were made for the indited men.
4 -25-24 Glen Young takes over organizing KuKluxKlan in East St. Louis,
5 -23-24 Glen Young and Wife were seriously Wounded while driving through the OkawBottoms on Route Fifteen.
5 -24-24 Jack Skelcher , Glen Youngs assailant was killed at the edge of Herrin, City Limits.
7 -9 -24 Glen Young Was dismissed from Klan position in East St. Louis.
8 -25-24 Judge Bowen of Herrin court rules that bond totaling $39,000.00 be forfeited when Young failed to appear.
8 -30-24 A riot btween Klan and antiklan at Smiths garage in Herrin (6) men were killed, Malitia was called again.
9 -I3-24 Glen Young was officially expelled from the Klan.
I0-II-24 Ora Thomas, ex-bootlegger, antiklan and bitter enemy to Young was appointed to deputy Sheriff of Williamson County.
I -24-25 Ora Thomas, Glen Young and two of Youngs Henchmen Ed Forbes and Homer Warren died in gunfight at the European Hotel,Herrin (Glen Young was born on Farm Long Island Kansas, 3-4-I887 BURIED VERCLE 1-24-25 G.R.M.
I -24-25 G.R.(Jack)Lipe was with I.C.Train crew who spotted engine on house track at Herrin Depot about 9:30 P.M. and went to the European Hotel to eat not knowing what had happened.
2 -7 -25 As part of a compramise between factions Sheriff Galligan turned his office over to his deputys and left the County for a month or so.
7 -3 -25 The Herrin Harold a Klan Paper is attached by Creditors and ceases publication.
4 -I3-25 An election riot at Herrin (3) Klan and (3) antiklan were Killed This marked the end of Klan in Williamson County.

Gang Wars

8 -22-26 Harry Walker and Everett Smith Bootleggers killed each other in roadhouse brawl.
9 -I2-26 Wild Bill Holland, Mack Puliam and his Wife were shot leaving roadhouse, Holland Dies.
9 -I4-26 Gang attacted ambulance carrying Puliam from Herrin to Benton beat the wounded man unconcesious.
I0-4 -26 Occupants of armored truck owned by Shelton Brothers fired on Art Newman and Wife one of Birgers henchmen near Harrisburg.
I0-I4-26 Charley Birgers gang shot up unoccupied roadhouse that belonged to the Shelton Brothers.
I0-25-26 The Charley Birger gang demanded Mayor Joe Adams Mayor of West City to surrendedr body of Sheltons Aroured truck and threatened to Kill him if he didnt, Adams was a friend of the Sheltons.
I0-26-26 The Body of Highpockets McQuay was found near Herrin and the same day Casey Jones was found in Creek Near Equality.
I0-28-26 Roadhouse near Johnson City belong to Birger was burned down.
II-6 -26 John Milroy was killed in roadhouse near Colp, W.J.Stone and C.P.Jonesand C.Keith were found wounded.
II-I0-26 Homade bomb was tossed at birgers roadhouse from Plane but Missed
II-I2-26 Machine gunners fired into Mayor Joe Adams Home, No one hit. Bombs were droped on Shadyrest but failed to go off.

II-I9-26 A Bomb was thrown into Joe Adams House causing severe Damage.
I2-I2-26 Birgers men Elmo and Harry Thomason called Mayor Joe Adams to his front door and shot him five times killing him Instantly.
I -9 -27 Shady rest (The Hut) Birgers roadhouse was bombed and burned to the ground Leaving (4) bodies, Elmo Thomason, Steve George His Wife caretakers and one unknown.
I -I9-27 Lory Price and Wife he was a State trooper and friends of Birger Dissapeared.
I -3I-27 Carl, Earland Bernie Shelton went on trial for the murder of and Mail Robbery.
2 -4- 27 The Sheltons were found guilty on testimony of Charles Birger and Art Newman.
2 -5 -27 The Sheltons were found guilty and sentenced to twenty Five years The same day Lory Price was found riddled with bullets in a field near DuBois,Ill. Washington County.
3 -4 -27 Harry Thomason and Two other Birger hangerson was sentenced to Ten Years at Marion For Robbery.
4 -29-27 Charlie Birger was arrested for murder of Mayor Joe Adams.
4 -30-27 Harry Thomason confessed he and Brother Elmo murdered Mayor Joe Adams at his Home, Through orders of Charley Birger.
5 -9 -27 Grand Jury indicts Rado Millich, Clarence Rone and Ural Gowen Birger Gangsters for the Murder of Casey Jones.
5 -23-27 Art Newman was arrested in Long Beach Calif, for the Murder of Mayor Joe Adamsof west City.
5 -26-27 Shelton Brothers granted new trial, freed on bond by evidence of Harry Dungey.
6 -II-27 Art Newman in Court at Nashville, Ill. Admitted he took part along with Charley Birger,Connie Ritter,Earnest Blue,Leslie Simpson and Riley Simmons of the murder of Lory Price.
6 -I3-27 The body of Ethel Price was found in an abandoned Mine, Where Art Newman stated it would be found.
6- 24-27 Rado Millich and Ural Gowan go on trial for the Murder of Casey Jones, They are found Guilty Rado turns States evidence and gets Death, Ural Gowan gets Twenty Five Years.
7 -6-27 Charlie Birger, Art Newman and Ray Highland go on trial for the Murder of Mayor JoenAdams of West City.
7 -27-27 Jury finds all guilty, Art Newman and Ray Highland Life And Birger to Hang on Oct, 25- I927. BENTON
I0-5 -27 Birger files for writ of error in State Supreme Court. Court grants Stay of Exocution.
I0-2I-27 Rado Millich Hanged in Jailyard at Marion, Ill.
2 -24-28 Supreme Court Denies Birgers Appeal, Directs Setence to be carried out April I3-I928.
4 -I2-28 Birgers Attorney files for Sanity Hearing, Judge finds Birger Sane, Execution to be held April I9-I928.
9 -20-28 Leslie Simpson arrested in New York for the murder of Lory Price.
II-5 -28 Simpson pleads guilty to murder of Lory Price, sentence was defered.
II-I6-28 U.S.District Court East St. Louis Indict ArlieBoswell States Att, for Williamson County and several other officials on Violation of Prhibition Laws.

I-27-29 Trial of Art Newman, Leslie Simpson, Riley Simmons, and Fredie Wooten for the murder of Lory Price And Wife . Defendants all pleaded Guilty, Judge ordered evidence presented.

I-9-29 All (4) were sentenced to life plus (57) Fifty Seven on two other cases.

I-25-29 States attorney Arley Boswell drew (2) Year sentence in Prison and $ 5000.00 fine

I0-I8-29 Connie Ritter arrested in Gulfport , Miss. for the murder of Joe Adams, Lory and Ethel Price.

5-25-30 Connie Ritter pleads guilty to the Adams murder and sentenced to life in Prison (Menard)

I0-26-4I Ural M Gowan was released after serving (25) Years

I-26-48 Connie Ritter Died in Menard Prison.

3-I5-50 Leslie Simpson (Birger Man) Paroled.

I-23-5I Harry Thomason " " "

7-9 -5I Ray Hyland " " "

A man named Charley(Blackie)Harris who was born I896 in Wayne Co. Ill. the youngest of a family of(2I) He started operating as a Counterfeiting con, Bootlegger, and a general Killer.

I927 Chas, (Blackie) Harris was sentenced to (II) eleven Years in Leavenworth Penitentiary on a Counterfeiting charge,

i0-23-47 Carl Shelton 59 was Shot with Rifle at Farmers club Fairfield.

7-28-48 Bernie Shelton 52 Was gunned down in front of his tavern from across Street by Rifle in Peoria, Ill.

5-24-49 Earl Shelton 49 was Killed on farm near Fairfield, Ill.
Roy Shelton Was Killed while driving Tractor plowing on farm in Wayne, Co.
The Sheltons only Sister Lula Married Guy Pennington and were Machine Gunned, Both survived,afterleaving Hospital they moved ot of State.

I2- I- 5I The Shelton Homestead at Fairfield was completely destroyed by fire. All was thought to be Charlie(Blackie)Harris, but no solid evidence was ever produced,

I964 After the Charred Bodies of Wayne County residents Mrs, Betty Newton and Jerry Merrit were foundin a local Farm House, Harris dissapeared and was put on the(I0) most wanted list, Harris put in about a Year on the run, after the FBI caught up with Charlie he was sentenced to 60 to 75 Years in Prison. at Menard

I967 Chas, (BlackieO Harris was transfered to Statesville.

I974 " " " " " " Vienna Prison where he is today.
Harris is (8I) White headed, Hands are Shaky and has to lean close to hear, But still has hopes of escape says he will never give up.

I963 The neighbors think he killed his neighbor Charles Taylor who Harris owed $ I000.00 damages that had been awarded by court for crop damage.

7-22-I934 John Dillinger : Was Gunned down on Chicago Streets, as he left Theater with girl friend, by Secret Agents,

I0-22-I934 Pretty Boy Floyd : Was Gunned down on a Ohio Farm in St, Clair Township (Near Liverlool)

I929 Ruth Snyder : went to the Electric Chair in N.Y.

I933 Winnie Ruth Judd, Convicted of Murder has escaped six times, is living in Calif, and working as a Domestic.

I927 Eva Dugan 52 ; was convicted of killing A.J.Mathis was finnaly parroled in I972 and told to leave the State. (she is in Calif,

Ruth Ellis: was hanged for murder

Blackie Harris
DoB 1896

"LEST WE FORGET"

Come, listen, while I tell about Lorey and Ethel Price,
And how those gangsters took them out, in cruel cowardice.
They threw him from the death machine, away the villians fled,
And left him for the wolverine to banquet on the dead.

Three weeks passed by, this boy was found some sixty miles away,
His body lay upon the ground, his face was cold as clay.
Then Lorey Price was laid to rest in his silent, silent tomb,
With eighteen bullets through his breast, which sealed poor Lorey's doom.

Poor Lorey begged so pitifully, to spare his loving wife,
But they drove her to an abandoned mine, and took an innocent life.
Poor Ethel cried for mercy, but those villians only laughed;
They took her lifeless body, and threw it down the shaft.

They covered it with scrap-iron, then rolled in a heavy stone;
Then turned their death car wayward and left for parts unknown.
Six months she slep there all alone, in that grave so deep and cold;
But her spirit to her God had flown, where pleasures are more than gold.

Her hat it lay beside her, crushed by the heavy weight,
And the hands upon the wrist-watch proved the hour of Ethel's fate.
Friends laid her by her husband, in that solemn tomb;
Then turned their footsteps homeward, filled with deepest gloom.

Now Ethel and Lorey rest in peace, they dwell in mansions above;
That fatal night they visited a sick niece, and paid last mission of love.
Now that dear little niece sleeps under the sod, she reached her heavenly goal,
With poor Lorey and Ethel where the hand of God, was flung around the soul,

Who were the ones that killed these two, and broke a mother's heart?
Why, the work was planned by a Russian Jew, it was the work of Art.
They killed these two without a cause, they took what they can-not give.
According to God's sacred laws, they forfeit their right to live.

For God is Love" and "God is Truth" the dear one made a plan,
That "An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth" He made for the birthright of man.
And when those villians get their dues, for the blood that they have spilled;
By electric chair or hangman's noose, the Scriptures are then fulfilled.

HARMON EASTMAN

Deut. 19-11-12.

Numbers 35-33

Matt. 25-36

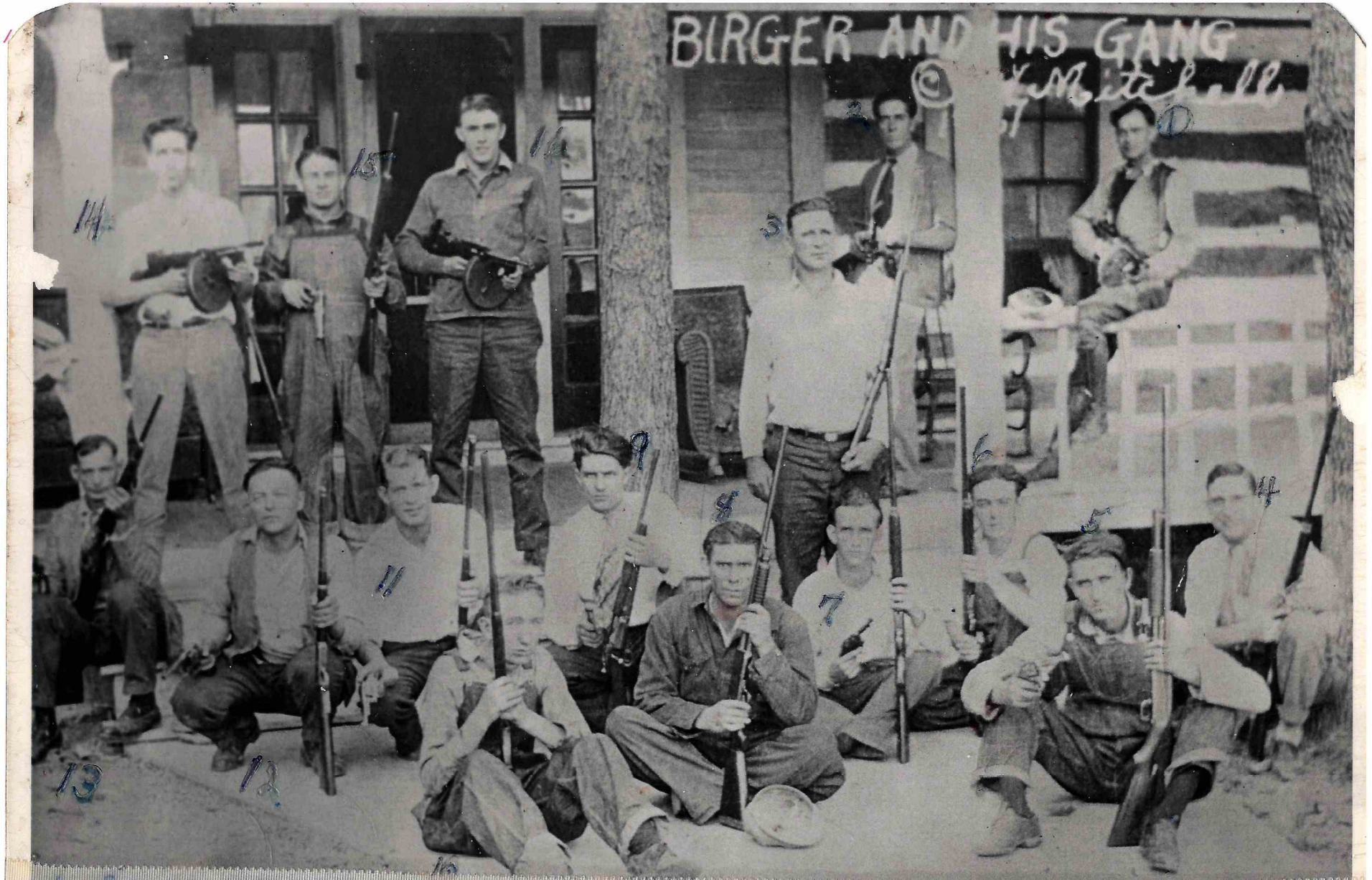
POEM DEMANDS PRICE'S SLAYERS PAY WITH LIVES

Marion, Ill., Nov. 27.—[Special.]—Roy Browning becomes state's attorney of Williamson county next Monday and Arlie Boswell retires. With that change, comes also a change in chief prosecutor of the Birger gangsters for the killing of Highway Patrolman Lory Price and his wife.

Although Browning had said that Boswell would finish the case if it started before Dec. 3, Browning today refused to state what part Boswell would take in the case now that it went over into his term of office. Browning defeated Boswell for the nomination, but Boswell worked for Browning's election.

Printed leaflets were found on the floor of the court room today containing an eight verse poem demanding "An eye for an eye," ending with the final lines, "And when those villains get their dues, for the blood that they have spilled, by electric chair or hangman's noose, the Scriptures are then fulfilled."

The poem was signed by Harmon Eastman, a relative of Mrs. Price by marriage. The poem tells how the highway patrolman and his wife were kidnaped and killed after visiting a sick niece.



1. BIRGER 2 UNKNOWN 3 ERNEST JOHN 4 UNKNOWN 5. ORAL GOWAN 6. CLARENCE PONE
7. ALTON PARKER BROWN 8. BERT OWENS 9. RILEY SIMMONS 10. ORAL GOWAN 11. ERNEST BLUE
12. STEVE GEORGE 13. ARDO MILLICH 14. HARD JONES 15. ART NEWMAN 16. CONNIE RITTER

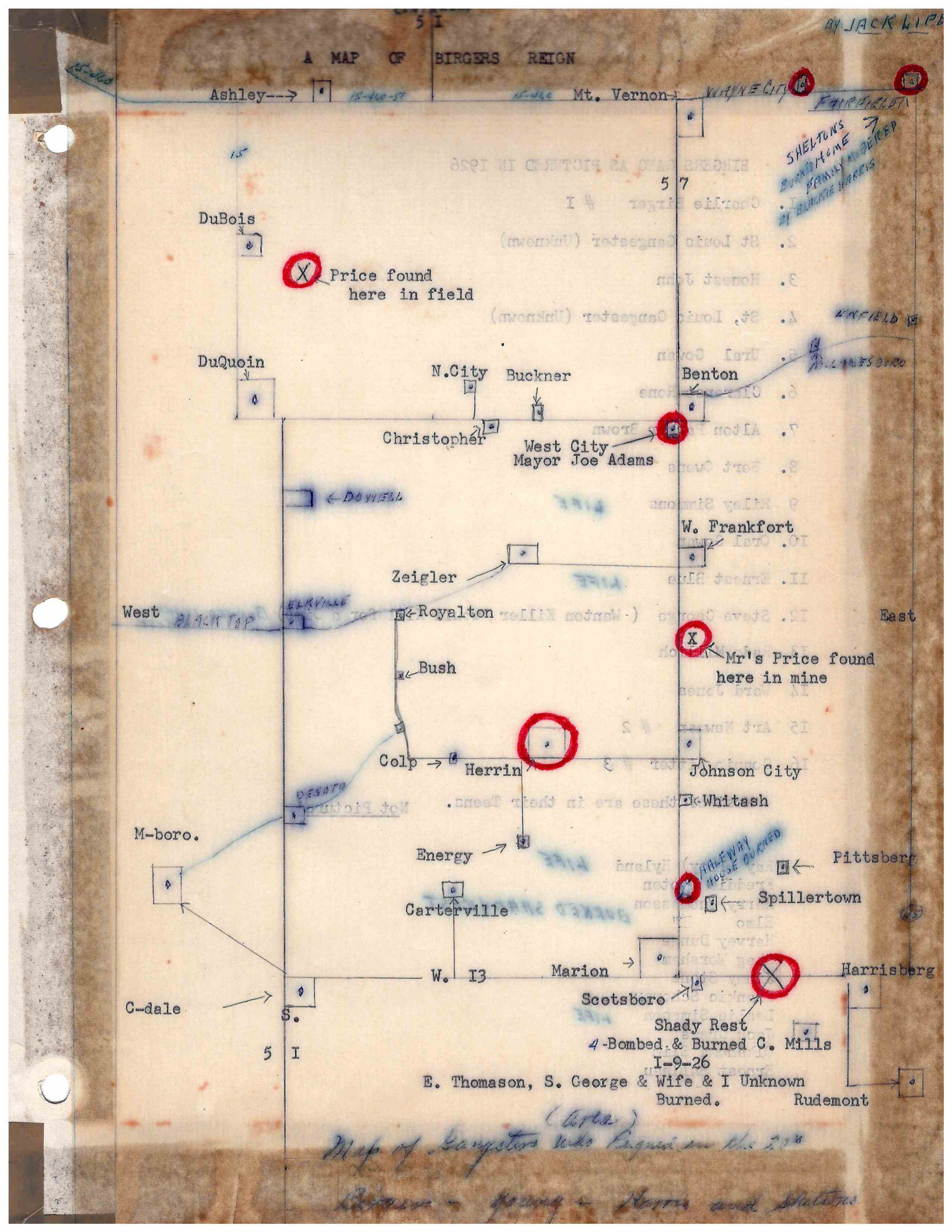
1927

1927

The Berger Gang

Charlie Berger	10-25-24 HANGED IN BENTON ILL.	1
ST LOUIS GANGSTER	UNKNOWN	2
Honest John		3
Unknown		4
Oral Gowan	PAROLED 10-26-51 25 YRS	5
Claude Rowes		6
Alton B. Parker Brown		7
Bert Owens		8
Riley Simmons		9
Oral Gowan		10
Ernest Blue		11
Steve George	AND WIFE BURNED IN SHADY REST (Pleasure Killer)	12
Rado Millich	10-24-27 HANGED COURTYARD MARION	13
Ward Jones		14
Art Newman	LIFE MENARD	15
Connie Ritter	DIED IN MENARD	16

Southern Illinois


A MAP OF BIRGERS REIGN
BY JACK LIPE
Ashley
Mt. Vernon
WAYNE CITY
FAIRFIELD
SHELTONS BOMB HOME FAMILY MURDERED BY BURRIE HARRIS
DuBois
Price found here in field
DuQuoin
N.City
Buckner
Benton
ENFIELD
Christopher
West City
Mayor Joe Adams
DOWELL
W. Frankfort
Zeigler
West
ELKVILLE
Royalton
East
Mr's Price found here in mine
Bush
Colp
Herrin
Johnson City
Whitash
DESOTO
M-boro.
Energy
HALFWAY HOUSE BURNED
Pittsberg
Spillertown
Carterville
W. I3
Marion
Harrisberg
C-dale
S.
Scotsboro
Shady Rest
4-Bombed & Burned C. Mills
I-9-26
E. Thomason, S. George & Wife & I Unknown
Burned.
Rudemont
Map of Gangsters who Engaged in the 2nd
Birger - gang - Herrin and Shelton

BIRGERS GANG AS PICTURED IN 1926

I. Charlie Birger # I

2. St Louis Gangester (Unknown)

3. Honest John

4. St, Louis Gangester (Unknown)

5. Ural Gowan

6. Clarence Rone

7. Alton Parker Brown

8. Bert Owens

9 Riley Simmons LIFE

I0. Oral Gowan

II. Ernest Blue LIFE

I2. Steve George (Wanton Killer would Kill for a Dime) BURNED IN SHADY REST

I3 Rado Millich

I4 Ward Jones

I5 Art Newman # 2

I6 Connie Ritter # 8

Most of these are in their Teens. Not Pictured

Ray (Izzy) Hyland LIFE
Freddie Wooten
Harry Thomasson
Elmo " BURNED SHADY REST
Harvey Dunge
Shag Worsham
Jimmy Stone
Frankie Schorer
Leslie Simpson LIFE
Jack Crews
Olkahoma Slim
Ernest Balleau